

Message Text

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17

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

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R 080634Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3032

INFO AMCONSUL UDORN

UNCLAS BANGKOK 25073

FOR D/HA/ORM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: LAO REFUGEES: SPONSOR PROBLEM

1. BANGKOK WORLD, 7 SEPT 1976, CARRIED FOLLOWING UPI ARTICAL:
QUOTE SUSANVILLE, CALIFORNIA (UPI) TWENTY-SEVEN LAOTIAN REFUGEES,
MANY OF WHOM CANNOT SPEAK ENGLISH, HAVE BEEN FOUND LIVING IN
IMPOVERISHED CONDITION AT A REMOTE CATTLE RANCH IN NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA.

AUTHORITIES SAID ONE 8-MONTH-OLD INFANT IN THE GROUP HAD TO
BE RUSHED TO A HOSPITAL SUFFERING FROM PNEUMONIA. SIX OTHER
CHILDREN WERE HOSPITALISED.

THE 27 REFUGEES, INCLUDING 10 ADULTS AND 17 CHILDREN, WERE RE-
MOVED FROM THE RANCH AND PLACED IN MOTEL HERE BY LASSEN
COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS. THOSE HOSPITALISED WERE SUFFERING
FROM EXHAUSTION AND SEVERE VIRAL INFECTIONS.

HEALTH OFFICIALS SAID THE RANCH WHERE THEY WERE FOUND HAD ONLY
A BUNKHOUSE WITH ONE FUNCTIONING TOILET. IT IS 16 MILES (25 KMS)
FROM THE NEAREST TELEPHONE.

THE GROUP WAS REPORTED TO HAVE ARRIVED AT THE RANCH 10 DAYS BE-
FORE NEIGHBOURS OBSERVED THEIR PLIGHT SEPTEMBER 1 AND NOTIFIED
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HEALTH OFFICIALS.

LOCAL OFFICIALS DETERMINED THAT THE LAOTIANS ENTERED THE US RECENTLY UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIAN REFUGEES, A NEW YORK ORGANIZATION.

MARTIN HERZOG, LASSEN COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTOR, SAID THE ORGANIZATION WAS CONTACTED BY TELEPHONE BUT "SEEMED UNCONCERNED."

NEIGHBOURS CONTRIBUTED MONEY, FOOD AND CLOTHING TO HELP THE REFUGEES, AND A THAI DOCTOR, LIVING IN REDDING, CALIFORNIA, WAS FLOWN TO SUSANVILLE TO ASSIST IN THEIR HEALTH CARE. UNQUOTE

2. MOST RECENT DEPARTURES TO SUSANVILLE AREA, ON 25 AUG 76, ARE EPP 8862, 9136, 9145, AND 9622 TO RENO. MAY NOT BE SAME GROUP, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ORM CHECKING IN CASE WE GET FEED BACK FROM REFUGEES REMAINING HERE. ADVISE.
BURKE

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NNN

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